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Newsletter - 1984-05-17

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NEWSLETTER

98-949

May 17, 1984

Washington DC

A CENTENNIAL FOR PRESIDENT TRUMAN. The House of Representatives and the Senate recessed their respective activities on May 8 at shortly before 10 a.m. to come together in a joint session for the purpose of remembering and honoring our past President, Harry S Truman.

The occasion was the 100th anniversary of President Truman's birth and his daughter, Margaret Truman Daniel, was the principal speaker. The Speaker of the House, Thomas P O'Neill Jr, officially presided. Mrs Daniel instantly caught the attention of everyone assembled in the House chamber when she remarked that her father was a modest man, and then interjected "but not fanatically so!"

Mrs Daniel's address to the joint session was filled with reminiscences about her father's tenure as our President from 1945-1953. For those of us in the House and Senate old enough to remember the days of Harry Truman--it was the kind of centennial birthday party for which the President would have nodded in approval. The anecdotes about his life and times as President filled us all with a sense of warm remembrance. In her tribute to her father, Mrs Daniel said "Every girl has a white knight in her dreams, and he was mine."

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DE LA GARZA FLIES TO FLORESVILLE FOR COURTHOUSE CEREMONY. The Wilson County Courthouse in Floresville is a grand old structure with a rich history--and my friend the County Judge, W.D. "Del" Cox, and his Commissioners, invited me to attend a rededication ceremony and centennial observation on May 12 at 2 p.m. to officially inaugurate the start of the Courthouse's second century! It was an opportunity I refused to miss.

But when I checked my scheduled commitments for that weekend, I realized some fancy footwork was needed. I had to be in McAllen on Saturday morning. I knew there wouldn't be enough time to drive up to Floresville. So--let's fly I thought! It's been a while since I rode in a twin engine propeller plane.

It was the only way to go! My good friend Merrill Connally at the Connally Ranch arranged for the plane to land at the airstrip on the Ranch. Wilson County Commissioner Talamantez picked me up and I arrived on time for the ceremony, having left McAllen at noon.

The County Courthouse in Floresville is a historic structure topped-off with a huge steeple. When Wilson County was formed in 1860, the County seat moved back and forth for a while between Lodi and Sutherland Springs. The Lodi Courthouse

KIKA DE LA GARZA, 15TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

was burned to the ground in 1883. When the County seat moved to Floresville in 1884, its first Courthouse also burned to the ground but was rebuilt as we see it today at a cost of \$5,000! And there it has remained since 1884--being renovated twice; once in 1939 and again in 1959. And now it starts a second century, as stately as ever.

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DE LA GARZA PART OF OFFICIAL WELCOME DELEGATION FOR PRESIDENT OF MEXICO. The President and Mrs Reagan asked me to join them in an official welcome ceremony to greet His Excellency the President of the United Mexican States, Miguel de la Madrid, and Mrs de la Madrid, at the White House on May 15th. President de la Madrid is making a formal state visit to our country. It is an honor to be included in the welcoming ceremony.

After the welcoming ceremony, Mrs de la Garza and I have accepted an invitation from Secretary of State and Mrs Shultz to attend a luncheon at the State Department honoring President and Mrs de la Madrid. This is just the beginning of a very busy state visit for the President of Mexico. In the evening, Mrs de la Garza and I will go to the black tie formal state dinner at the White House as guests of President and Mrs Reagan. Visiting heads of state are always accorded the honor of a state dinner at the White House, and considering our close and enduring relationship with Mexico, this state dinner for President and Mrs de la Madrid will surely be a grand occasion.

On the following day, May 16, Mrs de la Garza and I are to attend a black tie dinner at the Embassy of Mexico by invitation from the Ambassador of Mexico, the Honorable Jorge Espinosa de los Reyes, to dine with the President and Mrs de la Madrid. In the Ambassador's invitation to Mrs de la Garza and me, he noted that President de la Madrid "conveys to you and Mrs de la Garza his special interest in your personal attendance at the dinner." Events such as this are important for maintaining our traditionally close ties with Mexico, and it is my privilege to participate in all of these functions for President de la Madrid.

The next day, May 17th, marks the beginning of the 24th annual meeting of Mexican and American legislators called the US-Mexico Interparliamentary Group. This will be the 18th time I have attended the conference, and the seventh time I will serve as Chairman of the U S House delegation. As many know, the U S and Mexican national legislators discuss many issues of mutual concern between our countries--such as border affairs, maritime issues, agricultural needs, scientific cooperation and so forth. This year's meeting takes place in Washington (well timed with President de la Madrid's state visit) and continues through May 19.

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NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK IS MAY 13-19. Since this is national transportation week, it's a good time to publicize the crucial role which all forms of transportation play in getting our food from farm to table. That point has never been lost on me--and the Agriculture Department's Transportation Director recently sent me some materials to show how modern our farm transport mechanisms have become.

USDA, working with Texas A&M University researchers, has been testing a new modified railroad car and highway truck trailer for moving cattle. The rail car or trailer can provide all the creature comforts for our bovine friends--onboard food, water and rest areas! In one experimental trip from Newport, Tennessee to Amarillo--the test animals experienced far less dehydration, weight loss and stress when transported in the modified cars and trailers than by conventional means. And when you hear about research like this--it's no wonder our country is the leader in farm technology in every respect. Weight loss and dehydration in cattle under transport can spell bad news for the cattle raiser--and these new cars and trailers should fix that problem.

Many years ago I helped begin the effort to support USDA research and development into this new type of cattle transport, and I am personally pleased to see the work is bearing fruit.

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VISITORS FROM HOME. Mr and Mrs Jose Gerardo Gomez, Mr Les Booher, Mr Jack Cawood, Patricia Seal--all of McAllen; and Mr Lawrence Young of South Padre Island.